

position of each of the items of interest within the selected category and geographic vicinity, the position for each of the items of interest within the selected category and geographic vicinity being defined relative to the positional coordinates and other items of interest within the selected category and geographic vicinity.

27. Remote access port according to claim 26 wherein the user interface further comprises one or more members of the group consisting of a television, telephone, facsimile, audible speaker, and personal computer display, for indicating the items of interest to the user.

28. Remote access port according to claim 26 wherein the user interface further comprises one or more members of the group consisting of a television interface, telephone interface, facsimile interface, and personal computer interface, for communicating the inputs by the user to the database.

29. Remote access port according to claim 26, further comprising means for interpreting the inputs by the user and formulating the inputs into the request signal.

30. Remote access port according to claim 26, further comprising means for interpreting certain of the inputs as items of interest and for transposing such inputs into a selected category automatically.

31. Remote access port according to claim 26 wherein said means for generating a request signal comprises one of a personal computer.

32. Remote access port according to claim 26, wherein the information comprises additional detail for at least one of the items of interest, and further comprising means for (i) generating a signal representative of a user selection of at least one of the items of interest, and (ii) communicating the additional detail to the user.

33. Remote access port according to claim 26, wherein the information comprises an advertisement associated with at

least one of the items of interest, and further comprising means for communicating the advertisement to the user.

34. Remote access port according to claim 26, wherein the information comprises a plurality of discrete geographic vicinities, and further comprising means for hierarchically selecting any of the discrete vicinities in response to user inputs.

35. A method for remotely determining the position of each of a selected category of items of interest in a selected geographic vicinity from a database, comprising the steps of: (i) storing information about a plurality of items of interest in the database, the information including, for each of the items of interest, a geographic vicinity, positional coordinates that locate the vicinity, and at least one associated category; (ii) accessing the database from a remote port and over a communication link; (iii) communicating, from the remote port, information representative of a selected category and a selected geographic vicinity to the database; and (iv) transmitting a portion of the information from the database and to the user over the link, the information including, at least, identification of the position for each of the items of interest relative to the positional coordinates and other items of interest within the selected category and geographic vicinity.

36. A method according to claim 35, wherein the step of communication information further comprises the step of generating a request signal indicative of the selected category and vicinity.

37. A method according to claim 36, wherein the step of transmitting a portion of the information further comprises the step of responding to the request signal.

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